

New York, Thursday, February 4, 1864.

The Schleswig-Holstein question still attracted the most anxious consideration. The Austro-Prussian troops were on the banks of the river Eider, on their march to occupy Schleswig. Denmark was making active preparations for a war struggle, and the minor German States in the Federal Diet did not evince any disposition to recede from their position in support of the self rule of the duchies. At the last moment, however, it was reported that orders had been given for the Saxons troops in Holstein to concentrate in Altona, and thus permit the free march of the Austrian and Prussian forces into Schleswig. It was also believed that Denmark had courted an Italian

The stock market exhibited very little variation yesterday, but prices on the whole slightly improved. Government securities were quite firm at the quotations of the previous day. Gold was firm up one per cent, in consequence of the intelligence that the Bank of England had again advanced the rate of interest, to eight per cent. Money continued easy, and the indications were that lenders would be forced to lower the rate of interest.

The America's news created considerable excitement in the broadsheets on 'Change yesterday, prices largely advancing as may be seen by referring to our regular report of the market in another column. There was not much activity on 'Change, however, but the markets were rendered firmer by advances in gold. Cotton was active and higher. Groceries were very firm. Petroleum was very firm, with an upward movement. Freight was active, but not especially active.

JOHN MINOR BOTTS AND GENERAL McCLELLAN.—Some time ago a story was started that John Minor Botts had written a letter to G. S. Smith, of the Virginia State government, in which he stated his opinion that General McClellan was a traitor, and that the Southern soldiers depended more upon him for the success of their cause than they did upon Lee. Mr. Smith has denied this altogether, and the question now arises as to who started this wickedly malicious falsehood. The whole story originated with a correspondent of the *Tribune* and was published in that paper, first in a letter, and subsequently in its editorial columns. Of course the *Tribune* has not published Mr. Smith's contradiction.

The sermon was preached by the Right Reverend Bishop Longeneck, of Brooklyn. It was a short, but appropriate discourse, highly eulogistic of the deceased. The following are some of its chief points:

"Remember your prelate who have spoken to you the Word of God, and their faithful and loving conversation with you, and their faith,"—Hebrews xiii, 7.

He said they had assembled that day to perform a work which their religion recommended, to offer up the body of a good man, whose virtues were worthy of emulation by his beloved Archbishop. The orator, the statesman, the poet, had sounded his eulogies before, and the burden of grief of our people was thus lightened; but before them would be ever held in remembrance. Could he, by any efforts of his, extend it beyond the limits of his hearers? Would he not rather glorify himself in having testified, they spoke of a man of high order of attainments who was an honor to humanity. If they spoke of him as a citizen, he might say, "I am proud to call him mine." If they spoke of him as a man's heart throbs in his. He loved his own land, and left it because of the intolerance of its government, for another where the rights of man were secured. He lived in peace, and his country was left burned, so long did he love his country. He entered on his duties with singular and remarkable ability. His decisions were wise, and his administration of justice was such when it was needed. Should his adversary attack him behind a mask, he meekly tore it away, and showed him to the world. He was a man of great power, and he gave glory to Him who endowed him so manifestly with the grace and strength which enabled him to perform his great work. It was the duty of every one to follow him in the days of Archbishop Hughes, and that after he had received the Holy vintum and extreme unction he expressed, in his own emphatic language, the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The Lord will direct thee, and he will prosper thy way." He was a man whose heart was that the children of his faith should never be inferior to his (other citizens). Of set know

English Opera.—The Harrison Opera troupe resumes their performances at Niblo's Saloon last evening. Martians, which has been so successful in Brooklyn, being produced here for the first time. The audience was the largest and most fashionable that has attended any of these representations, proving that the public have well received the singing of the English Opera. Artistically considered, the performance of last evening was the best that has been given by the troupe. The principal singers, the soprano, the contralto, the tenor and the bass, were in excellent voice, the *ensemble* of the concerted pieces was as perfect as thorough rehearsal could make it, and both the vocal and instrumental parts were well sustained. The strength, but a carefulness of preparation which was evident in some of the earlier performances. We have not seen an audience so large and so well represented as on this occasion, nearly everything of value being presented. The more this troupe is heard the more it is appreciated. It certainly is a troupe of the highest class, and one far more than it presents. This evening the Bohemian Girl will be given in Brooklyn, for the benefit of Mr. W. Castle, and on Friday Matinee will be repeated in New York.

absence of any remark about the play we may make on account of the theatre. Mr. Barham a few days since gave the readers of the *Illustrator* a succinct account of the lecture given at the Museum on the 10th inst. Though we would not suggest that Niblo's theatre is dirty, we yet have a notion that by the adoption of Mr. Barham's tactics, the theatre would be made a great deal cleaner. This is greatly annoying his patrons, especially when they throw the stairs and passages on their way out.

Friday night is not open to the benefit of Mrs. Barham's lecture, but is announced as a benefit of the same kind, and we suppose presently Mr. Barrow Williams will have his individual benefit. Apparently the members of the theatre, whether they be actors or actresses, have no business, have their individual purses, and, as with the other families, the individual purse—especially of the ladies—are understood to have particular reference to their charity contributions. We are not sure, however, that they are really so. We do hope the public will be liberal toward Mr. Barham, and give his plenty of money to better his girls and women.